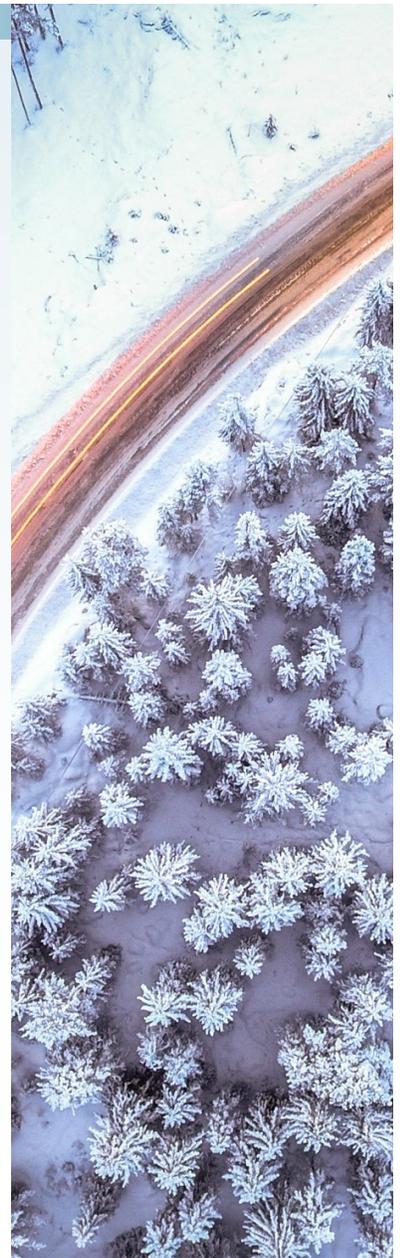


WaterSolutions

“To manage and conserve water and other resources for the citizens of Butte County”



Draft Water Resilience Portfolio

By Paul Gosselin

On January 7, 2020, Governor Newsom released the draft 2020 Water Resilience Portfolio for public comment. The comment period ends on February 7, 2020. The 2020 Water Resilience Portfolio was drafted in response to the April 29, 2019, Executive Order N-10-19 issued by Governor Newsom. The Executive Order called upon the California Natural Resources Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Food and Agriculture to develop a portfolio of actions to ensure the State's long-term water resilience and ecosystem health. The agencies received public input to guide the development of the portfolio. The draft portfolio outlines more than 100 recommendations in four broad areas to help regions build water resilience. The four broad areas are:

1. Maintain and diversify water supplies.
2. Protect and enhance natural ecosystems.
3. Build connections.
4. Be prepared for more extreme droughts and floods and hotter temperatures.

WATER PORTFOLIO, page 7 >>

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SGMA

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act



Reduction
of Storage



Seawater
Intrusion



Degraded
Quality



Land
Subsidence



Surface Water
Depletion



Lowering
GW Levels

Basin Setting roll out

By Christina Buck

The “Basin Setting” portion of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) describes characteristics like the geology, structure and physical characteristics of the aquifer systems, and how water moves in and through the system (such as recharge and pumping areas). This understanding of the basin’s physical characteristics is called the Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model. This becomes the basis for our understanding of groundwater storage and movement. Additional sub-sections of the Basin Setting describe characteristics of the subbasin that change over time and will likely change in the future, such as changes in climate, land use, water demands, etc. This includes a description of Groundwater Conditions (groundwater levels, water quality conditions, and subsidence if present) and the Water Budget. The Water Budget is our accounting (quantitative) of the inflows and outflows of water through the surface water and groundwater systems. Information in the Basin Setting portion of the GSP as well as the description of the Monitoring Network will support and frame future discussions to define Undesirable Results and thresholds for the successful management of the subbasin through Projects and Actions. A complete GSP needs to be adopted in each of the Vina, Butte, and Wyandotte Creek Subbasins by January 31, 2022.

The Basin Setting project began in the Fall of 2018 to conduct the technical work and draft portions of the GSPs for the three subbasins. Davids Engineering and team have been working with the Department and a group of Local Experts advising the project for more than a year. Results will begin to roll out to each subbasin in the coming months. The project contract ends in June. We expect results to be presented and discussed in each of the subbasins at public advisory committee meetings or public workshops in March and/or April. A high level overview of the results is expected to be presented to the Water Commission at their April 1st meeting. Draft chapters will be available for review and comment in May. Stay tuned for specific dates and times for these presentations. As they become available, results from the project and a timeline of future meetings can be found on the Basin Setting Project page on our website:

<https://www.buttecounty.net/waterresourceconservation/Special-Projects/Basin-Setting-Project>

Highlights from the Groundwater Status Report - Water Year 2019

By Kelly Peterson

The 2019 water year (WY) began October 1, 2018 and ran through September 30, 2019. It started out dry until mid- to late-November when rains began and continued through the months of March and April. Late spring rains came again from mid- to late-May also contributing to the water year overall. Over 30 atmospheric rivers occurred in WY 2019 with many occurring in northern California. Overall the 2019 WY had above average rainfall, snow pack and runoff conditions. Water supply conditions led to a 75% allocation for State Water Project contractors statewide.

The 2019 WY was classified as a wet water year type for the Sacramento Valley. It followed a below normal year, a wet year, another below normal year, two critical years and a dry year. According to the Northern Sierra Precipitation 8 Station Index, the 2019 WY ended on September 30, 2019 with 70.7 cumulative inches of precipitation, 137% of the long-term average. Sacramento River Region unimpaired runoff as of September 30, 2019 was 24.7 million acre-feet (MAF), which is about 138% of average and significantly higher than the previous year's average at the same time of 75%. 2019's April 1 snowpack statewide was 162% of the April 1 average. Statewide reservoir storage at the beginning of the 2019 WY was at 99% of average and grew to 128% of average by the end of the WY.

A return of wetter conditions in 2019 from the below normal year of 2018 brought modest increases to groundwater levels, specifically in groundwater dependent areas of the county. Both spring and fall groundwater levels in 2019 were approximately 3 feet higher on average compared to the spring and fall of 2018 respectively. Close to 30% of the wells monitored with an Alert Stage assigned to it remained at a spring and/or fall Alert Stage 1 or 2, indicating that levels remained near historical lows in some areas.

WY 2019 included the Department's 18th year of groundwater quality trend monitoring for evidence of saline intrusion. No water quality Basin Management Objectives (BMOs) were exceeded for electrical conductivity, pH or temperature and all measurements were within the acceptable ranges.

Subsidence is monitored by periodic land surveys and by use of extensometers. No inelastic land subsidence was detected in Butte County from an evaluation of the extensometer records in the Butte subbasin.

The draft Groundwater Status Report was reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee at their January 2020 meeting and will be presented to the Water Commission on February 5, 2020 with the TAC's comments incorporated into it. It will then be submitted to the Board of Supervisors on February 25th. Once approved, the final report will be available at <http://www.buttecounty.net/wrcdocs/Reports/GWStatusReports/2019/2019GWSTATUSRPT-FINAL.pdf>.

Please contact Kelly Peterson with any questions at (530) 552-3588.





Vina GSA Board finalizes a MOU with Butte College & other key policies

By Kelly Peterson

At the December Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) meeting Board members approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Butte College, the GSA's final bylaws, the conflict of interest and ethics policies and set the meeting dates and times for 2020.

Why a MOU with Butte College? Butte College has been involved in county-wide SGMA talks since they began in 2014. In 2015 Butte College chose to be a GSA, but in 2017 opted not to continue as a GSA after assurances were provided through a MOU between the College and the County. The MOU outlined how both entities would commit to participate in the development of a single GSP for the Vina subbasin. The Vina GSA was formed via a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) in 2019. Upon entering the JPA, the County and College realized that the existing MOU was no longer valid because the County was no longer a GSA. The MOU was then revamped to include the same terms as the original MOU, but now as a joint agreement between the College and the Vina GSA.

The Vina GSA Board decided to meet on a quarterly basis in 2020, starting in March. They will meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Chico City Council Chambers. The reduction in meetings from monthly to quarterly is due, in part, to the recent formation of the Vina GSA Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SHAC), who are slated to do a lion's share of work over the next 12 months. From now until June they will be reviewing and providing feedback on the initial results and draft chapters that come from the Basin Setting work for the GSPs and soon thereafter they will be directly involved in content for other portions of the Vina GSP.

The next meeting of the Vina GSA is scheduled to be held on March 11, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at the Chico City Council Chambers, 421 Main Street, Chico, CA. Additional 2020 meeting information will be available soon on the GSA's website: www.vinagsa.org.

Vina GSA's Stakeholder Advisory Committee holds first meeting

By Kelly Peterson

The Vina Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SHAC) was formed in November 2019 to provide input and recommendations to the GSA Board on the development and implementation of the groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) for the Vina subbasin. The ten-person committee held their first facilitated public meeting in December where they were presented a review on the background of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), an overview of conditions in the Vina subbasin (i.e. land use patterns and current groundwater levels) and the current status of work underway on the basin setting portions of the GSP. During the meeting there was also a discussion about the roles of the Committee and a draft charter was approved through consensus by all of the SHAC members present during the meeting. The group also took a look at the planned workload in front of them for the next 6 months. The SHAC will meet again in February to comment on the first draft chapter of the GSP released, the "Monitoring Protocols for Data Collection and Monitoring" chapter. They will also receive a more in-depth introduction to the Basin Setting of the Vina subbasin (i.e. hydrogeology, land and water use) and an introduction to and status update on the local Butte County groundwater model.

The SHAC meetings are open to the public and scheduled to be held the third Tuesday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Old Municipal Building, Upper Conference Room, 441 Main Street, Chico, CA. Additional information for the 2020 Vina SHAC meetings will be available soon here: www.vinagsa.org.

NSV IRWM 2020 Meeting Schedule

The Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management (NSV IRWM) Planning group has established a reduced meeting schedule for 2020 compared to monthly NSV Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings and quarterly NSV Board meetings that have occurred in previous years. The originally scheduled February TAC meeting has been canceled. The Board will consider adoption of an updated IRWM Plan that meets Prop 1 standards and revised Board Bylaws at their March meeting.

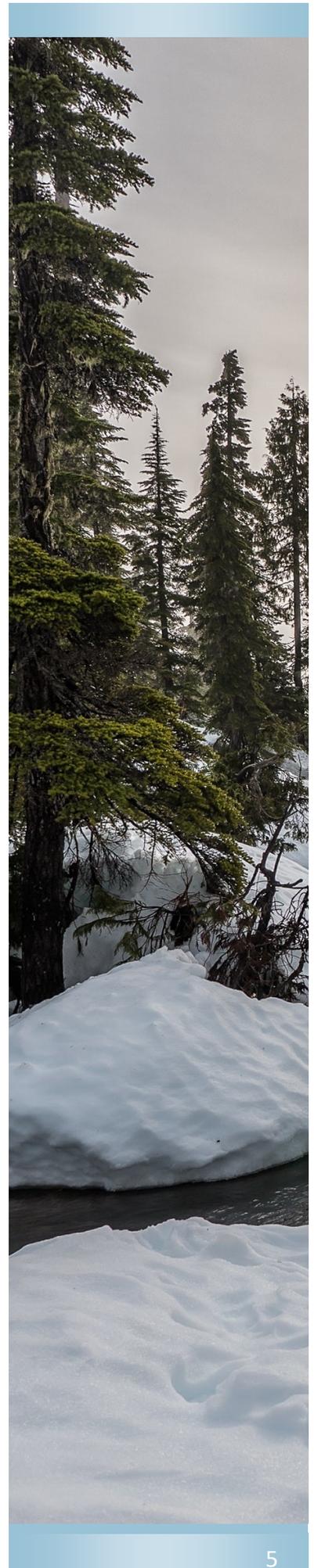
2020 Meeting Dates:

March 2, 2020 – Board Meeting

June 17, 2020 – TAC Meeting

July 15, 2020 – TAC Meeting

August 3, 2020 – Board Meeting





Request for Proposals for Groundwater Sustainability Plan Completion for the Butte, Vina and Wyandotte Creek subbasins

By Paul Gosselin

On January 31, 2020 a request for proposals (RFP 59-20) was issued to complete the Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for the Butte, Vina and Wyandotte Creek subbasins. The final product will be GSPs that will fulfill the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The project will be administered by the County of Butte Department of Water and Resource Conservation on behalf of the groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) utilizing a Proposition 1 grant. Development of the GSPs under the terms of the Proposition 1 grant began in 2018 through the project entitled, Development of the Basin Setting for Groundwater Sustainability Plans (Basin Setting Project). The Basin Setting Project will produce technical work required to support the development and completion of the Basin Settings portion of the GSP in each of the three subbasins by June, 2020. This work will contribute to the final GSP suitable for submittal to the Department of Water Resources as mandated by SGMA, in each of the three subbasins. The deadline to submit proposals is February 28, 2020 at 5:00PM. Firms interested in participating in this solicitation are encouraged to register at the Public Purchase website: www.publicpurchase.com.



STATE OF CALIFORNIA WATER RESILIENCE PORTFOLIO INITIATIVE

>>> Water Portfolio (Cont.)

On January 28, 2020, the Butte County Board of Supervisors submitted comments on the 2020 Water Resilience Portfolio. The draft Portfolio offers a number of recommendations that will benefit Butte County. These include support for implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and specifically groundwater recharge. The draft Portfolio includes support for the use aerial electronic survey methods (AEM). The Department conducted an AEM survey in 2018. A workshop on the results is planned for the spring of 2020. The support for AEM may provide additional opportunities to conduct additional AEM surveys in Butte County. The draft Portfolio supports investment in the upper watershed to protect water quality and supply. Improving the health of the upper watersheds is critical to groundwater recharge, aquatic ecosystems and fire suppression. Unfortunately, the draft Portfolio did not specifically address the devastating impacts from wildland fires. The Board of Supervisors recommended that the draft Portfolio include a reference to efforts to reduce fire risk in the upper watershed and to develop a state strategy to monitor and mitigate toxic runoff from wildfire incidents. The draft Portfolio referenced Governor Newsom's commitment to support Voluntary Agreements with water right holders in the Sacramento Valley as part of the State Water Resources Control Board's Bay Delta Water Quality Plan.

But, there are a number of recommendations that are contrary to County interests. The draft Portfolio recommends to facilitate increased interbasin water transfers. This provision runs counter against a proposal to require that urban and agricultural water suppliers report on how they intend to reduce their reliance on the Delta. The Delta Reform Act of 2009 (SB1X 1, Simitian) created a once-in-a-generation opportunity to resolve California's water challenges through the coequal goals of "providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring and enhancing the Delta ecosystem". The Delta Reform Act also established that agencies must reduce their reliance on the Delta. For nearly a decade, water suppliers have ignored the implications of this policy. The draft Portfolio supported the "single tunnel" Delta Conveyance Project as directed by Governor Newsom. The Board of Supervisors cautioned the Administration to avoid the past, failed approach of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and California WaterFix Project.

The draft 2020 Water Resilience Portfolio is an ambitious attempt by the state to set a comprehensive strategy. The Administration intends to finalize the 2020 Water Resilience Portfolio after the comment period. More information on the 2020 Water Resilience Portfolio can be found at <http://waterresilience.ca.gov/>.

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to get
started.

Message and data
rates may apply.

Meeting Schedules

Water Commission

2/5/2020, 1:30 p.m.
Board of Supervisors Chambers
25 County Center Drive

Board of Supervisors

2/11/2020, 9:00 a.m.
Board of Supervisors Chambers
25 County Center Drive

2/25/2020, 9:00 a.m.

Board of Supervisors Chambers
25 County Center Drive

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- Christina Buck, Assistant Director
- Kelly Peterson, Water Resource Scientist
- Autum Thomas, Administrative Analyst

Water Commission

- Mark Grover
- Richard Harriman
- DC Jones
- Tod Kimmelshue, Vice-Chair
- George Nicolaus
- Mauny Roethler
- David Skinner, Chair
- Matthew Tennis
- Ernie Washington



Vina GSA Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 2020—5:30 pm
Chico City Council Chambers
421 Main Street, Chico

Vina Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 18, 2020—9:00 am
Old Municipal Building, Upstairs Conference Room
441 Main St., Chico

Wyandotte Creek GSA Meeting

Thursday, February 27, 2020—1:00 pm
Oroville City Council Chambers
1735 Montgomery Street, Oroville

Wyandotte Creek GSA

MISSING

DIRECTORS

The Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) currently needs participation from public members to serve within the governance structures to help provide stakeholder input on the development and implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the subbasin.

The Wyandotte Creek GSA currently has two alternate Stakeholder Director vacancies on the Board. Representation is needed for agricultural well-users and domestic well-users. Likewise, there are multiple seats available for agricultural and household/domestic groundwater users, as well as representatives for environmental, tribal and business association interests on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee, which has not yet been formed. Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled and are available on the Wyandotte Creek GSA website www.wyandottecreekgsa.com or by calling the Wyandotte Creek GSA at (530) 552-3591.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION
CALL (530) 552-3591**

PLEASE HELP FIND!